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Letter dated 29 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following declaration (copies enclosed in English, French and Spanish), published on 2 November 2004:

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 29 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The European Union warmly welcomes the announcement by Ethiopia of a five-point proposal for resolving the boundary dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The acceptation in principle of the decision of the Boundary Commission is an important indication of Ethiopia's commitment to the Boundary Commission's final and binding decision. The European Union looks forward to a constructive approach to the Ethiopian proposal by Eritrea and the full implementation of the boundary decision by the two countries, in full cooperation with the Boundary Commission. This is the only basis upon which a lasting peace can be secured.

The European Union, as witness to the Algiers Peace Agreement, reiterates its commitment to the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and emphasizes that the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea will be an essential element for regional peace and security. The EU stands ready to play a supportive role in this process.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,[a] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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[a] Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.